

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

By His Excellency

GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY

2003

- WHEREAS: On December 17, 1903, in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Wilbur and Orville Wright achieved the first powered, sustained and controlled flight in a heavier-than-air machine for a 12-second, 120-foot journey that changed the world and gave birth to the age of modern aviation; and
- WHEREAS: The Commonwealth contributed to the success of the Wright Brothers through the encouragement of Samuel Pierpont Langley of Roxbury, scientist and pioneer of aeronautic research, and the support of James Means of Dorchester whose Aeronautical Journals 1895-1897 presented a compilation of the world's knowledge of flight to the Wrights and all of America's aeronautical experimenters; and
- WHEREAS: The members of the Boston Aeronautical Society founded in 1895 as the first aeronautical society in the United States, and members of the Aero Club of New England founded in 1902 as the first aero club in North America contributed research and support to the Wright Brothers and subsequent pioneer aviators; and
- WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which since 1896 has been in the forefront of aviation and aerospace research and development in the United States and is largely responsible for inertial guidance, radar, air traffic control systems and many of the aeronautical advances enjoyed throughout the world; and
- WHEREAS: On May 20, 1926, President Calvin Coolidge signed the Air Commerce Act leading to the creation of the Federal Aviation Administration whose primary mission is safety, dedicated to keeping Massachusetts and our entire nation's airports and airway systems the safest and most efficient in the world; and
- WHEREAS: Amelia Earhart established her aviation roots in Massachusetts, and became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic aboard the *Friendship*, which departed from the shores of Boston Harbor in 1928; and
- WHEREAS: The Wright Brother's spirit of exploration and innovation inspired President John F. Kennedy, a native of Massachusetts to challenge our nation to achieve the goal of "landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth"; and
- WHEREAS: The civil and military aerospace industry, so important to the Commonwealth and the defense of the United States, is a highly technological enterprise, drawing heavily on the expertise and research and development activities of the Massachusetts educational institutions, research laboratories, and manufacturing companies and adds continual growth, stability and safety to aviation; and
- WHEREAS: Aviation in the Commonwealth is a critical component of the state's transportation network and an essential part of our daily lives, and strengthening our air transportation system is necessary to maintain the economic and social benefits of this vital industry allowing citizens and commerce unparalleled safe and convenient access, both nationally and globally using the State Airport System; and
- WHEREAS: Aviation is vital for the health, safety and welfare of Massachusetts by providing such specific benefits as emergency medical services, law enforcement, agricultural production, environmental protection, search and rescue and disaster relief; and
- WHEREAS: Aviation is a key economic factor in the Commonwealth vitally important as both an economic engine and as a transportation resource connecting Massachusetts to the global market while contributing to formidable job and fiscal growth within the state; and
- WHEREAS: The Bay State is rich in aeronautical history; it is fitting to designate an official day whereby the efforts of all aviators, aviation professionals and the greatest historical strides accomplished by the Commonwealth will be so presented and properly recognized;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mitt Romney, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts encourage all citizens and organizations in the Commonwealth to join together in celebration of the great achievements and cultural improvements to mankind brought about by the advancement and utilization of aviation during the past 100 years, and do hereby proclaim December 17th, 2003, as:

MASSACHUSETTS "CENTENNIAL OF FLIGHT" DAY

And I urge all citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this 17th day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand and three, and the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and twenty-third

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mitt Romney".

MITT ROMNEY

By His Excellency the Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William F. Galvin".

WILLIAM F. GALVIN
Secretary of the Commonwealth



GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS